



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

**DATE:** May 3, 2010

**TO:** Michael C.R. Alavanja, DrPH  
Project Officer  
Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch  
Epidemiology and Biostatistics Program  
Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics  
National Cancer Institute (NCI)

**FROM:** NIH Privacy Act Officer

**SUBJECT:** Applicability of the Privacy Act: "The Agricultural Health Study: A Prospective Cohort Study of Cancer and Other Disease Among Men and Women in Agriculture (NCI)"

I have reviewed the NCI submission to OMB entitled, "The Agricultural Health Study: A Prospective Cohort Study of Cancer and Other Disease Among Men and Women in Agriculture (NCI)" for purposes of following the disease incidence and mortality.

I have determined that the Privacy Act will apply to this data collection which involves the collection of personally identifiable information such as name, age, race, sex, social security number (SSN), date of birth, address, telephone number, subject ID, height and weight. SSNs are being collected to provide tracing capabilities. The subject ID number is used to track participant activities throughout most phases of the study. The computer data files with identifier information will be available to only a limited number of Coordinating Center staff for a limited time. After the data are analyzed, personal identifiers will be kept by the Iowa and North Carolina Field Stations if another phase of the study is undertaken, otherwise the data will be destroyed. At the completion of the study, all personal identifiers will be removed from the data. Names and other identifying information are kept in separate databases maintained by the Field Stations. These data files are joined only for performing linkages to the mortality and cancer incidence databases.

This data collection is covered by NIH Privacy Act Systems of Record 09-25-0200, "Clinical, Basic and Population-based Research Studies of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), HHS/NIH/OD."

If you have any questions, please contact my office at (301) 402-6201.

  
Karen M. Plá

Attachment